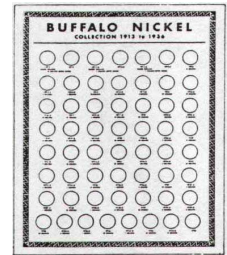


Coin Board News

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MARKET ACTIVITY Offerings of coin boards have been very limited during the past few months, with just occasional appearances on eBay. I'm seeing an increase in the number of boards containing partial coin sets, and it's never certain whether the coins were obtained contemporaneously with the boards or added recently to present the illusion of an old collection. I've seen some boards and albums sold by me that were later filled with coins and offered as being from "Granddad's Estate." Ultimately, the value of the coins should be the same regardless of their container, but perception does seem to matter to some sellers.

One notable eBay listing was for a Near Mint example of W1¢A2, the Whitman Second Edition board for Large Cents 1793-1825. Seldom seen this nice, it brought a strong price that was still short of its real value, so someone got a bargain. I was tempted to bid on it myself, having previously owned that very same board, but I'm glad that it went to a collector.

My own board purchases have been very few since the last newsletter, though one particularly serendipitous acquisition made up for this with its importance. At the Summer FUN show a dealer brought up a small group of mostly undistinguished boards that included three of the very rare Gramercy brand: two for Indian Cents and one for Lincolns. Two of these three were quickly swapped within my own collection as upgrades, and the three I then had for sale were shortly thereafter placed with want list customers. Still eluding me is the Pennyhobby Coin Collectin' Outfit in which the boards were originally sold. All I have is the instruction book from this boxed set, and this was illustrated in *Coin Board News* several issues back.

BOOK UPDATES My limited board purchases of late are reflected in just a single new entry in the catalog. The Oberwise board for Indian Cents is now known with backing variety 1, so you may add O1¢A1 to your books.

The Oberwise boards are severely underappreciated by most collectors, and they are extremely rare in grades of VF and higher (in fact, few of the examples within my own collection grade as high as VF). I attribute this lack of interest to the plainness of the Oberwise graphics, at least with respect to their faces; the many back varieties do add some spice. With the exception of the very earliest printings, which had richly marbled faces, these boards are rather homely. The sheer number of survivors spread over so many back varieties also limits interest and prices. Like a coin type for which there are many common dates and mints, their value is held in check by the perception that they must be common in high grade, but a review of my past price lists will reveal how untrue this is.

WEBSITE UPDATE At the time I wrote my book on coin boards I knew very little about board publisher Joseph Oberwise. Thanks to the initiative of one reader I was subsequently able to make contact with Oberwise descendants and learn a great deal more about him. This additional information was included in an article I wrote for *Numismatic News* in 2008 and was accompanied by previously unpublished photographs supplied from family members. *Numismatic News* Editor David C. Harper has graciously permitted me to add a link to this article on my website, and you'll find it on the page labeled Coin Board Gallery 1.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN I'll be at numerous coin shows during the last quarter of 2010. These include the Silver Dollar Show in St. Charles, MO October 13-16, the Whitman Baltimore Expo November 4-6, the Santa Clara, CA Expo November 18-20 and the Houston Money Show December 2-4. Please stop by the NGC table to say hello.

Dave

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